



**FEDERAL EDUCATION ANNOUNCES \$2,236 MILLION
FOR THE ISLAND TO BE ISSUED FROM THIS MONTH
*Monday, March 9, 2009***

SAN JUAN, PR- The Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan announced the allocation of \$2,236 million that will be coming to Puerto Rico starting this month as part of the Economic Recovery Act, Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi informed.

Puerto Rico will receive \$1,192 million for education programs, including \$647 million from the Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The island will receive as well \$1,043 million in funding for Pell Grants, which includes an increase of \$247 million compared with the received in 2008.

Education programs that will receive money from the Economic Recovery Act are: Title 1, with \$386 million, Education and Technology, with \$24 million, Vocational Rehabilitation, with \$12.6 million, Work-study, with \$3.6 million; Aging blind with \$469,000, and Independent Living, with \$12,596.

The fund programs IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) also benefit from these funds, \$109 million for special education, \$3.3 million for pre-school age students, and for infants, \$4.8 million.

In the case of the \$647 million from the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, the Education Department has drawn up guidelines by which the governors of states and territories may apply for up to 67% of these funds, in late March. To receive the remaining funds, state agencies must submit evidence that the money was used according to guidelines established.

In addition it was reported that funds such as Pell Grants and Work-study will be available the first of July. It is estimated that each recipient will receive a Pell Grant increase of \$500 in checks starting on July.

Funds for education programs must be used to improve the academic achievement of our students, from elementary to high school levels and then university. "We have a great responsibility to prepare our

students for the challenges they will face daily," Pierluisi said. As part of the Economic Recovery Act, in addition to the \$2,236 million for education, the federal government has already sent to Puerto Rico \$263 million for projects related to public housing, \$174 million for transportation, \$23 million for security and \$2.3 million for community health facilities, among others.

<http://pierluisi.house.gov>